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UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

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Dear Prospective Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in the Naval Academy. This brochure contains information on life at Annapolis and the basic requirements for admission. If you would like more detailed information concerning the entire Annapolis experience, please consult a current United States Naval Academy Catalog, which should be available in your guidance counselor's office or school library.

You should begin your application for an appointment to the Naval Academy starting in the spring of your junior year in high school. At that time you should request a Pre-Candidate Questionnaire (application form) to begin the admissions process.

Competition for the Naval Academy is keen, but admission leads to:

A full four-year scholarship which includes tuition, room and board, medical and dental care, and a monthly salary of $543.90;

A Bachelor of Science degree in one of 18 majors;

A four-year program of leadership development;

Broad opportunities for extracurricular activities and travel;

and most of all, immediate employment in a career of service to our country with early responsibilities in aviation, surface ships, submarines, nuclear power training or the Marine Corps upon graduating.

I hope that this information will be of assistance to you in preparing yourself for the Naval Academy. Best wishes for continued success in high school.

Sincerely,

D.W. DAVIS
Captain, U.S. Navy
Director of Candidate Guidance

What is the Naval Academy?

The United States Naval Academy is not like any civilian college. It is not supposed to be. As the undergraduate college of the Navy, we put students in a military as well as an academic environment. The life definitely is not for everyone, but many welcome the multi-dimensional challenge, what the academy stands for and where it leads. From the day you enter, you are pursuing a college education and preparing for a career.

We have a unique mission: "To develop midshipmen morally, mentally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor and loyalty in order to provide graduates who are dedicated to a career of naval service and have potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government." To accomplish this, our balanced and integrated program develops maturity, confidence, leadership, strong moral character and an appreciation for physical fitness.

A program that does so much in four years must be very demanding, but it isn't impossible for anyone with the qualifications and motivation. More than 77 percent of those entering the academy successfully complete the four-year program.

Graduation opens a lifetime of exciting opportunities as a Navy or Marine Corps officer, serving in the nation's defense. Career fields range from naval aviation, surface warfare and submarines to Marine infantry and armor. In every field you are responsible for leading talented men and women, as well as operating sophisticated military systems. No matter what you do later in life, you will have talents and experiences that equip you well for success.

"How is the academic program?"

The 650-member faculty at the academy is about half military officers and half civilian professors. All courses are taught by these faculty members, none by graduate assistants. Extra instruction by the faculty is available on a one-to-one basis. Instructors are dedicated to helping their students succeed.

Eighteen academic majors are offered in engineering, science, mathematics, social sciences and the humanities. The choice is yours. You also must take about 45 semester hours of such military-professional courses as seamanship, navigation, naval engineering, electrical engineering, weapons and leadership. You learn to use computers in many of your studies and soon master your own personal computer, which you are required to buy during Plebe Summer.

"What is the professional training program like?"

Remember that the purpose of the Naval Academy is to produce top-notch, well-prepared Navy and Marine Corps officers. Many activities and programs are structured with that in mind.

All students enter as fourth-class midshipmen (freshmen). While every midshipman must attend the academy for four years, you can validate individual courses based on previously completed college-level work. Validating courses, overloading and optional summer school give you the chance to complete required studies early and to pursue an academic minor, independent research or post-graduate education off-campus in your fourth year. Almost all graduates go on to Navy or Marine-sponsored graduate studies later during their careers.

More than 2,000 hours of professional military training are required over the four years at the academy. This includes a wide range of instruction in leadership, naval operations, military routine and drill, as well as practical training in sail and power craft and on the weapons ranges in Annapolis. During summers, midshipmen get on-the-job training in surface ships, submarines, aircraft and Marine Corps units. Summer cruises offer an exciting introduction to life in the naval service, plus unique opportunities to see the world.

How are the four years organized?

	Plebe Summer	Fourth-Class Year (Freshman)	Third-Class Year (Sophomore)	Second-Class Year (Junior)	First-Class Year (Senior)	Graduation
Education:	Validation exams, initial academic counseling.	Required courses: calculus, chemistry, computers, leadership, literature, history, naval science, government. You will decide on your major course of study during the second semester of plebe year.	Required courses: naval science, navigation, thermo-dynamics, naval architecture, physics; basic courses in major.	Required courses: electrical engineering, leadership; required courses for major.	Required courses: leadership, weapons systems; required courses for major or special study programs such as Trident Scholars.	Bachelor of science degree awarded in 18 subject areas: 8 in engineering, 6 in science and math, 4 in humanities and social sciences.
Professional Training:	Military orientation, seamanship (sailing), small arms (pistol), physical training.	Courses in naval science and leadership. Hands-on experience with basic shiphandling on board yard patrol craft. Indoctrination to Navy ships and aircraft, military etiquette, Soviet military.	Leadership experience: assist with fourth-class training. Third-class cruise: 8 weeks of training, including 4 weeks with the fleet with enlisted duties	Leadership experience: in charge of fourth-class and third-class training. Second-class cruise training includes Marine Corps training, surface and submarine cruises and one week of flight orientation at Pensacola, Fla. Professional courses at the academy.	Leadership experience: direct training and activities of the brigade. First-class cruise: 8 weeks of training including 4 weeks with the fleet as a junior officer.	Officer commission as ensign in United States Navy or second lieutenant, United States Marine Corps.
Physical Education and Athletics:	Plebes are introduced to many of the 33 intercollegiate and 30 intramural sports offered at the academy, ranging from pistol and fencing to lacrosse and sailing. Midshipmen choose a sport each season over the four years.	Instruction in golf, lacrosse, gymnastics, crew, soccer, squash, track and swimming. For men, boxing and wrestling For women, fencing and self defense.	Instruction in tennis and swimming. For men only, boxing, wrestling and basics of judo. For women only, combatitive grappling. Tests in applied strength, mile run, swimming and boxing.	Advanced racquetball, swimming, personal conditioning, officiating and hand-to-hand combat. Performance tests given.	Advanced instruction in swimming and personal conditioning. Electives in sports. Tests in applied strength, obstacle course, mile run and swimming.	
Extra-curricular Activities: (ECAs)		More than 70 recreational, professional and athletic ECAs offered throughout the four years at the academy. Includes club sports of boxing, judo, karate, powerlifting, trap and skeet, rugby, ice hockey, tennis and softball.		Professional and academic ECAs open to all midshipmen include Dolphin Club, Drill Team, Military Parachute Club, Semper Fidelis, Surface Action Group, Astronomy Club, Forensic Society, History Club and International Club.	Recreational ECAs available throughout the four years include archery, photography and scuba. Musical ECAs such as the Drum and Bugle Corps, choirs, Glee Club, Trident Brass, and Drama Club also are offered. Other activities include Log Magazine, Brigade Activities Committee, WRNV Radio and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.	

"How much emphasis is put on sports and athletics?"

We put a great deal of emphasis on sports and physical conditioning because they teach teamwork, leadership, appreciation for fitness and ability to cope with stress. Every midshipman must take four years of physical education, including biannual tests in 1.5-mile run, applied strength and other areas. Midshipmen also participate in a competitive sport at the intercollegiate or intramural level in every season. We offer 33 varsity sports, 23 intramural sports and several club sports. There are more than 100 acres of lighted playing fields for tennis, soccer, lacrosse, football and baseball. There are indoor pools, an ice skating rink, gymnasiums, wrestling and fencing lofts, a bowling alley and a golf course. There also is a boathouse for crew (rowing) teams and a sailing center to support a fleet of more than 150 boats.

"Are there many extracurricular activities?"

Midshipmen are encouraged to be active in one or more of 73 extracurricular activities offered at the academy. There are choirs, a drum and bugle corps, glee clubs and church choirs. Midshipmen staff a radio station, yearbook, humor magazine and a number of other publications. There are clubs for those interested in drama, photography, amateur ham radio, art and printing, languages, oceanography, foreign relations and many other areas. You can learn to scuba dive and parachute. There is recreational sailing in everything from sailboards to large offshore racing boats. There even is a flying club with instructors available to help you earn your private pilot license.

"Is there much social life?"

Social life during plebe (freshman) year is limited by heavy military and academic requirements on new midshipmen. However, there's some free time for movies, concerts, plays, athletic events and local sightseeing. Also, each plebe is sponsored by a local family for dinners and relaxation off campus. After the first year, social life opens up considerably with more privileges and free time. Weekends off allow time to enjoy the hundreds of attractions in the Annapolis-Baltimore-Washington area.

"What is the tuition?"

All midshipmen receive, in effect, a full four-year scholarship with paid room and board, medical and dental care and a salary of $543.90 each month. In return, you agree to serve at least five years on active duty after graduation as an officer in the Navy or Marine Corps. Most graduates decide to serve well beyond five years.

"How do I become a midshipman?"

There are six basic steps: You must (1) meet the basic eligibility requirements, (2) obtain a nomination, (3) qualify academically, (4) qualify medically, (5) qualify physically, and (6) be selected by the academy for admission. These steps are explained in more detail below.

(1) Basic eligibility: You must be a U.S. citizen of good moral character, at least 17 years old and not past your 22nd birthday on July 1 of the year you enter the academy. You must be unmarried, not pregnant, and have no legal obligation to support a child, children or other individual.

(2) Obtaining a nomination: Nominations are usually obtained from members of Congress. The first step is to apply for a nomination to the representative from your congressional district and both senators representing your state. Sample letters can be found in the academy catalog. Apply to all sources for which you are eligible in April of your junior year, or as soon as possible afterwards. Congressmen may submit nominations to the academy up to January 31 of an applicant's high school senior year, but most submit their nominations earlier, during the fall. You don't have to know a congressman personally, nor do you need political influence to receive fair consideration. If you are a strong, well-rounded student, it's not difficult to get a nomination.

Other sources of nomination include the president, vice president and secretary of the Navy. Detailed information on sources and eligibility is in the Naval Academy catalog.

You can also call the Candidate Guidance Office for assistance.

(3) Qualifying academically: This process begins when you return the pre-candidate questionnaire (PCQ) to our Candidate Guidance Office. Once received, your file is opened and a preliminary screening is done. If your class standing and SAT or ACT scores are satisfactory, you will be scheduled for a medical exam and mailed a candidate packet. (The Candidate Guidance Office can give you information on recent qualifying scores.) When your candidate packet is completed and returned to the academy, the Admissions Board considers your record. At this time, your high school transcript is carefully evaluated. It should include all or most of the following: four years of math (including trigonometry), four years of English, two years of a foreign language and a year each of chemistry and physics.

(4) The medical examination: You will be scheduled for a medical examination as soon as the Admissions Office determines you have a reasonable chance of qualifying academically. Normally you receive notification by mail explaining where to go for the examination. You usually are notified of the results four to six weeks afterward.

Generally speaking, healthy candidates with normal vision have little difficulty passing the exam. However, the exam sometimes identifies characteristics or problems that could be aggravated by the academy's rigorous routine or that would prevent military service after graduation.

(5) The physical aptitude examination: The Candidate Guidance Office will send you an illustrated pamphlet describing the test and explaining how to take it. There are four parts: chinning (flexed arm hang for women), a timed shuttle run of 300-yards (six round trips between two parallel lines spaced 25 yards apart), a standing broad jump for distance and a basketball throw for distance from a kneeling position. Your gym instructor can administer the test which takes about 40 minutes to complete.

(6) Selection for appointment: Once the results of the medical exam, physical aptitude exam and Admissions Board screening are in, you are about 75 percent through the application process. If you have been successful in obtaining a nomination, you will be considered a qualified candidate. Of about 12,000 young men and women who apply, about 2,200 make it to this stage. Of those 2,200 about 1,500 of the best qualified candidates are offered appointments to become midshipmen.

"Could the Naval Academy be for me?"

With midshipmen from all 50 states, the academy offers you a unique opportunity to associate with a broad cross section of the country's finest young men and women. Pulling together, you pursue a four-year program that develops you mentally, morally and physically as no civilian college can. As you might expect, this program is demanding, but the opportunities are limitless and more than worth the effort.

Graduates of the Naval Academy include a former president of the United States, the first American scientist to receive a Nobel Prize, more than 25 Rhodes Scholars and 34 NASA astronauts and mission specialists. Of course, the academy is first and foremost a professional college for future Navy and Marine Corps officers.

"Can I make it into the academy?"

There is only one way to know for sure, and that is to prepare and apply early! You need four years of high school preparation to develop the strong academic, athletic and extracurricular background required to compete successfully for admission to the Naval Academy. Unfortunately, many candidates don't realize this until late in high school. You should begin preparing in your freshman year and apply for admission towards the end of your junior year.

If you think you measure up, have a strong will to achieve great things and want to be a leader serving your country, your opportunities of a lifetime can begin at the Naval Academy. Contact our Applicant Information Line, 1-800-638-9156 after 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, or write to the Candidate Guidance Office, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD 21402-5018.

Department of the Navy
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